

PITCH IN DOUBT FOR SENIOR CUP QUARTER-FINAL

FOR THE first time in five years, Wycombe Wanderers and Slough Town will not contest the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. The teams were drawn against each other last month and meet tomorrow (Saturday) in the quarter-final at Slough's new Wexham Park ground — weather permitting.

At the time of writing, the match is far from a certainty. Slough have had quite a few problems with their pitch recently. The draining system is not working properly and as a result there were pools of water on the pitch in mid-week.

The ground has not been played on for over a week and a decision on whether the match will be played as scheduled will be taken today (Friday).

When the draw was made last month, the County F.A. must have had mixed feelings about the pairing of the 'big two'. It will mean a different final on Easter Monday, but its unlikely to attract the usual 2,000 plus crowd, with one or possibly both of the two leading clubs already knocked out of the competition.

Wanderers and Slough have battled out the last four finals between them with Slough winning the first two 3-0 and 1-0 and then Wycombe taking the next two 1-0 at Chesham and last season 3-1 at Wokingham.

So the score stands at 2-2 in matches so far in the Berks and Bucks Cup while in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One this term, Wanderers hold a slight edge. In only their second game of

sonnel.

Centre half Mick Cannon, always a steady player, has since given up the game due to business commitments while Trevor Williams quit to join Hitchin before Christmas. Mick

Roy have just re-signed for the Rebels.

Town signed on the tall Dennis Edwards as a replacement for Cannon at centre half while another Guildford player, Dennis Malley, also joined. Gary

this season have been somewhat inconsistent, but recent results have seen them move into 11th place in Division One.

Best result this term must have been the 2-1 win at Ilford, while the Rebels have also accounted for Hitchin 6-1 (their largest victory) and Sutton 3-0. Their full results are, Home: Barking 1-2, Bishop's Stortford 1-3, Bromley 3-0, Hayes 2-3, Hitchin 6-1, Kingstonian 3-2, Oxford 2-1, Sutton 3-0, Tooting 1-1, Wycombe 1-1, Walthamstow 1-0, Dagenham 2-3. Away: Hayes 2-0, Ilford 2-1, Kingstonian 1-1, Leatherhead 0-4, Oxford 0-1, Sutton 0-1, Tooting 1-2, Walthamstow 0-0, Walton 2-0, Woking 3-3, Wycombe 0-1.

In the F.A. Cup, Slough came in at the fourth qualifying stage and celebrated the opening of

their new ground with a 1-0 triumph over Sutton. That earned them a tie with Fourth Division locals Brentford. The match was due to be played at Slough, but as the spectator facilities were not complete at that time, the tie was eventually switched to Walton's Stompond Lane ground. Brentford had few problems in running out 4-1 winners.

Slough, however, are still in the process of strengthening the squad and will probably be happy to climb gradually up the league table this season. The County Cup will be a bonus and tomorrow's game should be full of interest.

As always in these local derbies, several of the players will be facing their former teammates. Slough's Peter Spittle, Barrie Davies and Geoff Anthony all spent some time with the Blues, while Keith Mead and Terry Reardon are former 'Rebels'.

Wanderers, who have not played since their 4-0 friendly victory over Letchworth, on January 14, have only one doubtful starter, goalkeeper John Maskell. The recent inactivity on the field, however, will have given useful time for John's cracked thumb to heal. Brian Steventon is standing by to take his place if necessary.

Berks and Bucks Senior Cup preview by STUART EARP

the season, Wycombe won 1-0 at Loakes Park with Steve Perrin scoring after 40 minutes. The return was staged at Hayes F.C. as the Rebels' ground was not finished. Dave Kemp put Slough ahead just before half time but a 52nd minute goal by Mick Holifield made the final scoreline 1-1.

Since those matches, however, Slough have made several changes in their per-

sonnel. Chatterton, who played a couple of pre-season friendlies for Wycombe before joining Slough, hit only five goals before switching to Wokingham.

Three other players left Slough this term but have since rejoined. Terry Brown, a tall striker, departed for Sutton United but rejoined when Chatterton left, while the two Davies brothers — Barry and

Borthwick, a youngster who played against Wycombe for Walton and Hersham at Loakes Park, is also with the Rebels now. These new players have given manager Roy Sleap quite a headache with selection difficulties, but on the other hand, his present squad is probably the strongest since the departure of Tommy Lawrence two years ago.

Slough's league performances

At present it is still uncertain whether Saturday's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup quarter-final against Slough match will be played. The Rebels' new pitch suffered badly with the rain and much will depend on the weather later this week.

BARRIE DAVIES
... rejoined

JOHN MASKELL
... broken thumb